

Re: Is this math test too easy?

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From: Herman Rubin (hruhin_at_odds.stat.purdue.edu)

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In article <93k5q0p7es1dpbt7e2upljfods2gdp723r@4ax.com>, Mxsmanic <mxsmanic@hotmail.com> wrote:

>*Herman Rubin writes:*

>> *One cannot do critical thinking to any real extent without mathematics.*

>*I've been doing critical thinking all my life, and exposure to mathematics was not necessary to make it possible, nor did it enhance my ability to do it to any extent.*

I do not see how one can do critical thinking without being fairly adept and deductive logic, which is part of mathematics, and not taught at all well. In most cases, inductive logic will be needed, at or above the level of introductory theoretical statistics.

>> *To do so, one needs to be able to at least attempt to evaluate ALL the "major" consequences of one's actions, and this requires stating them precisely, which is mathematical formulation.*

>*There are many ways to accomplish this without mathematics. And mathematics isn't that precise.*

Unfortunately, it is not. But it is a lot better than going off on philosophical grounds with no understanding of the limitations imposed by the structure of the universe.

Mathematics, sometimes even quite simple mathematics, often shows that what LOOKS like it should be the obvious outcome of an action is actually the opposite.

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This address is for information only. I do not claim that these views are those of the Statistics Department or of Purdue University.
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